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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

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7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session the Population Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Population Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 1991/308, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974

(a) General debate on national experience in population matters

At its twenty-sixth session, the Population Commission concluded that it would be useful to continue making provision in its agenda for a general debate, during which members would be able to exchange views and national experience in the area of population. That conclusion was approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1991/308.

(b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on refugees

The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-eighth session in 1975, considered the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and the resolutions and recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974. In decision 87 (LVIII) on the role of the Population Commission in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, the Council requested the Population Commission to examine on a biennial basis the results of the continuous process of monitoring of population trends and policies, in accordance with paragraph 107 of the Plan of Action, and to bring its findings to the attention of the Council.

The General Assembly, in resolution 39/228, endorsed the recommendation of the International Conference on Population, 1984, that the monitoring of population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action continue to be undertaken by the Secretary-General, as specified in the Plan. The request for a report on the monitoring of population

trends and policies was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1985/4.

The Population Commission has reviewed seven reports of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population trends and policies - in 1977, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1989 and 1991. At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission will have before it the eighth report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, containing a special chapter on refugees.

(c) Review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

The World Population Plan of Action calls for a comprehensive review and appraisal of progress made towards achieving its goals and recommendations, to be undertaken every five years by the United Nations system. The first quinquennial review and appraisal was undertaken in 1974; the second, in 1984, the findings of which were the substantive basis for the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City in 1984; and the third, in 1989. The draft report on the fourth review and appraisal of the Plan of Action (A/CONF.171/PC/3) will be considered in depth by the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development at its third session, to be held in New York from 11 to 22 April 1994. The final report will be discussed at the Conference in Cairo in September 1994.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on refugees (E/CN.9/1994/2)

4. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation

On the recommendation of the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1991/92, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue to give high priority to the monitoring of world population trends and policies, including in-depth consideration of special topics, and to continue to work on studies on the interrelationships between population and development, giving particular attention to studies promoting the integration of population factors into development planning, including issues related to the environment, the role of women and the development of human resources; studies on the interrelationship between the status and role of women and population; comparative analysis of population policies, including analysis of the results of the Seventh Population Inquiry among Governments; biennial revisions of estimates and projections of national, urban, rural and city populations, including demographic indicators and age structure; analysis of mortality (adult mortality, including maternal mortality, as well as infant and child mortality); studies on reproductive behaviour and on family planning and its demographic impact; studies to measure and understand changes in population distribution, especially internal migration and urbanization in developing countries, and international migration; and

dissemination of population information and further strengthening of the Population Information Network (POPIN) at the regional and global levels.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to coordinate substantive preparatory work for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994; to continue to work closely with Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the implementation of programmes; and to further improve communication and coordination between the Population Division of the Secretariat, the regional commissions and Governments, particularly in order to prepare the most accurate population estimates and projections possible, an activity in which the Population Division should play a leading role.

In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to further strengthen multilateral technical cooperation in order to meet the urgent need to train an adequate number of population specialists over the next five years and to stimulate female enrolment in training courses. The Council also requested the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of funds, to conduct a study of the needs of developing countries for skilled human resources in the population field and the measures required to meet those needs.

Finally, the Council re-emphasized the importance of maintaining the scope, effectiveness and efficiency of the global population programme and of continuing to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the planning and execution of their population programmes, as well as the need for organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen coordination and collaboration with Member States and other intergovernmental, non-governmental and national organizations, as appropriate.

For its consideration of those activities, the Commission will have before it a report on the progress of work in the field of population since its twenty-sixth session.

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget (resolution 45/253). The plan was later revised by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/6/Rev.1). The plan includes a programme on population (Programme 18) which serves as the legislative authority for the activities under that heading. This will be made available to the Commission as a background document.

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme on population of the United Nations Secretariat in New York for the biennium 1994-1995, drawn up in

accordance with the strategy described in the programme on population of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1991 and 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1994/3)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/CN.9/1994/4)

5. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984

In resolution 1987/72 on the follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a regular basis, reports on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population, on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance; requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to continue to submit to the Population Commission, on a regular basis, a report on the activities of the Fund; and invited the Population Commission to review those reports, within its competence, and to transmit its views to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on refugees (E/CN.9/1994/2)*

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1994/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1994/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1994/7)

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on activities of the Fund (E/CN.9/1994/8)

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* See also the annotations to item 3 (b).

The parts of the reports and decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions (E/1991/34, E/1992/28 and E/1993/35) dealing with the United Nations Population Fund

6. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation and, in particular, 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council. In paragraph 1 (j) of resolution 1982/50, the Council urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn in particular to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which it is stated that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly should be streamlined in order to enable them to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; that the Council and the Assembly should continue to review the provisional agenda for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and that, in doing so, the Council and the Assembly should also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation of their subsidiary machinery.

Further, the Council, in resolution 1981/83, instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agenda and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating

or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Population Commission

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of each session.